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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 90% Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain Sensex 80,049 | Nifty 24,305 | Gold 73,090 | Silver 90,600 | Dollar 83.49 | Euro 90.29 | GBP 106.45

TEXTBOOK CASE

Academic year has begun, but books yet to be distributed to students in both government and private schools across state

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PAGE 3

HALT ALL WORK

If BBMP Chief fails to meet contractors' demands, all ongoing developmental and maintenance works may stop come Monday

As BBMP floats tender (second time) for Madiwala Lake revival work at estimated ₹15 crore, citizens call fund drop in ocean for lake that needs lot of development efforts

TOO LITTLE, TO LAKE

Waterbody passed on from Forest Dept to civic agency, which many believe is not up for task

KAUSHIK JN

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department has floated a tender inviting bidder for the comprehensive development Madiwala Lake that is known for hitting the headlines for wrong reasons. The water body was under the Karnataka State Forest Department and it was transferred to the BBMP Lakes Department in 2020. However, it was restored with the Karnataka State Forest Department after a year and then again transferred to the BBMP Lakes Department last year.

Now, the BBMP Lakes Department has floated a tender inviting a bidder (for the second time) as there was no response to its earlier tender notification. The BBMP Lakes Department has decided to take up developmental works at an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore.

However, residents of areas nearby and lake wardens are not happy with the water body being transferred again to the BBMP Lakes Department in November 2023. The volunteer community, through the lake wardens, used to work in coordination with the Karnataka Forest State Forest Department. They used to get revenue of Rs 1.20 crore to Rs 1.50 crore per year through boating, parking and entry fee from the visitors. The money was used for the upkeep of the lake.

"I am of the opinion that the BBMP does not have the expertise to maintain Madiwala Lake. The civic body has to take measures to stop sewage entering into the lake to keep it clean. They have to take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Residents are fretting about how much this grant can help the lake with, while for years now it has needed desilting, hyacinth removal and debris clearance**
>
> — R Rajagopalan, Namma Kere Trust

Planet of the apes

Complaints about mischievous monkeys pouring in, so BBMP to set up panel to hire primate rescuers

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The Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) says it is overwhelmed with calls from citizens regarding mischievous monkeys.

So much so, that the department is setting up a committee to recruit rescuers who specialise in handling the primates.

"We are receiving a lot of complaints regarding monkey menace. These complaints are only increasing with time. While we have seven animal rescuers, they are snake handlers. The new proposal is for rescuers trained in handling small mammals and monkeys," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP.

The committee will include experts who will scan applications, conduct interviews, and carry out background checks to form a strong and experienced team to deal with difficult situations.

"We had approached the Karnataka Forest Department a few months ago, requesting for trained monkey rescuers. However, KFD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Fashion hunt

Make a style statement and polish your look with a stunning new range of designer wear, jewellery, bridal wear, fashion accessories, and much more with the 'HI Life Exhibition.' Shop from the trendsetting fashion collections, including casual, formal, and ethnic wear, gold and precious stones, footwear, bags, clutches, shawls and stoles, skin care, designer suits and sarees, paintings and pottery, stationary, aroma and mural collections, hair and spa essentials, wall hangings, torans, diya, candles, and many more to explore.
Where: The Lalit Ashok
When: July 5 to July 7, 10 am to 8 pm

02 Jazz & pop tunes

Get ready for a musical rendezvous at Boteco Sinfonia this Saturday, featuring Vidya and Hrasha. Immerse yourself in Latin jazz and pop musical melodies with vocals by Vidya and Harsha playing the notes on the keyboard.
Where: Boteco, Opp. Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar
When: July 6, 1 pm to 4 pm

03 Short stories

Engage in a book discussion between Gigi Ganguly, Vinayak Varma, and Radhika Timbadia on Gigi's latest book, 'Biopeculiar,' a collection of speculative short stories that speak about her deep love for the natural world and also shed light on the grave concern about the crises that envelop it today. At once fantastical and familiar, playful and disturbing, these stories root around in the world we think we know, dredging up truths that often evade our eyes.
Where: Champaca Bookstore, Off Queen's Road
When: July 6, 5 pm

Classes have begun, but books are late as usual

Textbook delay sparks academic concerns, especially for RTE quota students; 99% books printed, dispatched claims textbook society

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The new academic year has commenced, but textbooks are yet to be distributed to students in both government and private schools across the state. Numerous schools in Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mysuru, Davanagere, and Raichur districts are yet to receive books for specific classes.

Students under the Right to Education (RTE) quota, who are entitled to free textbooks, have been impacted by this issue, as they have not yet received their textbooks. Private school associations have criticised the government, accusing it of delaying textbook distribution and consequently affecting the academic year.

These associations have further alleged that the government is concealing the true extent of textbook distribution, asserting that the actual distribution rate is significantly lower than what is being reported. "Many schools affiliated with the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools (KAMS) have reported not receiving some textbooks. However, the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTS) claims to have supplied 95 to 99 per cent of the textbooks. In some instances, schools have received the second part of the curriculum but not the first. Additionally, free textbooks intended for students under RTE are yet to be delivered," said KAMS general secretary, D Shashi Kumar.

Private school associations have levelled accusations against the government, alleging a delay in textbook distribution that has disrupted the academic year. This issue has led to inconvenience for students and parents, creating disruptions in the academic calendar. Private school associations remain sceptical about the government's promise to deliver 100 per cent of textbooks to students by the first week of June. Expressing doubt about this commitment, the associations have demanded immediate action from the government to ensure that all students receive their textbooks promptly. They have also warned of potential protests if the issue is not resolved swiftly.

Associations demand immediate action from government to ensure that all students receive their textbooks promptly

Kumar further points out disparities between the Education Department's claimed textbook distribution numbers and the actual figures. He suggests that if there are delays in physical distribution, soft copies of the textbooks should be made available on the website where students could at least download and utilise them until they get hardcopies of textbooks, facilitating uninterrupted classes. However, he expresses disappointment at the Karnataka Textbook Society's lack of responsiveness to these requests.

An official is inspecting textbooks that will be sent to schools in this file photo

Textbooks dispatched, but not delivered

The Karnataka Textbook Society (KTS) claims that 99 per cent of textbooks have been printed and dispatched to district-level offices, yet these books have not made it to the schools. This delay has caused significant frustration among teachers and school administrators, disrupting students' education. Despite instructions from the Education Department to commence teaching without textbooks, the absence of these materials has created considerable inconvenience.

Students unicycle their way to event in US

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Ten students from the city-based Shishu Mandir Education Centre will soon be travelling to the United States of America to participate in Unicon21, the bi-annual international unicycling championship where unicyclists gather to participate in competitions, share experiences, and build relationships with patrons and participants from across the unicycling world. This is a dream come true for these students hailing from economically weak families.

Over 1,200 athletes are expected to participate in various competitions over 12 days in this year's Unicon 21, which is being hosted by the US in Bemidji, Minnesota. "I am feeling excited because I am going abroad for the first time. I am grateful to my school and patrons for giving me this opportunity. We have been practising in the morning for more than one hour and allocating more time during the weekends," said Mala G, one of the girl students selected to participate in the event.

Students to participate in Unicon 21 to be held in the USA from July 14 to 26

Nalin Harikrishna, Punith Gundappa, Balaji Nanda Kumar, Kokila Kithiganur Venkatesh, Dharshini Murugesh, Harini Adishesha, Mala Jayaramappa, Taslima Buddy Sab, Vinciya Joseph Tharchuis, and Sinchana Umesh are the students who will be competing at Unicon 21. They will be participating in one footed race, wheel walk, cross country, downhill, trials, IUF slalom, mini downhill, mini uphill, flatland, 10-km marathon, 57-km marathon, and track races (100m, 200m, 400m, and 800m). Apart from this, the students will be visiting the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, St. Paul Science Museum, Minnesota Arboretum, Como Zoo, and the Mall of America.

David Foy, unicycle coach, Shishu Mandir, said the children at the centre begin their mornings with sports activities. "When they learn to ride the one-wheeled cycle, it gives them a feeling of accomplishment, as they are among the very few people who can ride unicycles in the whole country. Many of these children go beyond just riding and put real efforts into learning other tricks that can be done on a unicycle: riding backwards, juggling or playing basketball as they ride, and much more, which leaves spectators thrilled and amazed. Their passion and dedication can take them to new heights in their journey as unicyclists," said Foy.

Punith and Kokila previously participated in a similar event held in France. "Punith and I participated in a unicycle competition held in Grenoble, France, in 2022. We were in France for two weeks. I reached the semi-finals in one of the events. While in France, I realised there was a lot to learn and improve. Now, I have one more opportunity. I will be in the US for more than 25 days. I am confident of winning the competition this time around," said Kokila.

Contractors threaten work stoppage over unpaid bills

Over 1,000 contractors demand action on pending payments, development projects at risk

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If the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner fails to meet the demands of contractors, all ongoing developmental and maintenance works within the BBMP limits are expected to come to a grinding halt from Monday. Around 1,000 contractors have decided to stop their work in support of their long-pending demand for the BBMP to clear their unpaid bills on time.

The BBMP Contractors' Association made this decision during a meeting held on July 2 to stop all ongoing developmental works from July 8. "We wrote many letters to the BBMP Chief Commissioner. We have also appealed to the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister to help us by directing the BBMP Chief Commissioner to clear our pending bills, but despite the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister directing the BBMP Chief Commissioner to release the funds, nothing has been done to date," said GM Nandakumar, president of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Contractors' Association.

The tussle between the BBMP and the contractors over the delay in releasing funds is not new. The BBMP frequently hits the headlines for this issue, and it has become routine for BBMP contractors to stage protests at the BBMP Head Office in support of their demands. Some contractors have ended their lives, and others have gone bankrupt due to the delay in the BBMP releasing funds to clear their pending bills.

> **"We have no other option than to stop the ongoing developmental works to make the authorities meet our demands**
>
> –Hanumanthaiah, Vice President, BBMP Contractors' Association

It may be recalled that Venkatesh A, a BBMP contractor, ended his life by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his residence in April 2023 due to a loss of Rs 20 crore incurred since 2015. Krishnam Raju, another BBMP contractor, ended his life in January 2021 due to financial distress allegedly caused by unpaid bills from the BBMP. Maregowda, a BBMP contractor, ended his life by suicide in December 2016 due to the delay in the BBMP releasing funds. SR Girish, another BBMP contractor, ended his life in November 2013 after his efforts to convince the BBMP authorities to clear his bills bore no results.

Meanwhile, the BBMP contractors said that some of them urgently need money and a few have borrowed money from private financiers to fund the developmental works. "The BBMP authorities are not bothered to look after the welfare of contractors. They are delaying clearing the unpaid bills despite repeated reminders," said a contractor on the condition of anonymity.

BBMP Contractors' Association vice president Hanumanthaiah said that all the contractors engaged in civil works, garbage collection, and stormwater drain works have agreed to support the association's decision to stop work from Monday. "All the works, including silt removal from roadside drains, pothole filling, sweeping roads, and removing silt from stormwater drains, will be stopped from Monday. We have no other option than to stop the ongoing developmental works to make the authorities meet our demands," said Hanumanthaiah.

Judicial custody extended for Darshan & aides

A court in Bengaluru extended the judicial custody of Kannada actor Darshan, his associate Pavithra Gowda, and 15 others until July 18 in connection with the murder of a fan. Presented via video conference from Bengaluru and Tumakuru prisons, the prosecution argued for their custody extension, citing serious charges including murder, evidence tampering, and conspiracy. Investigations highlighted the destruction of physical and technical evidence, with ongoing forensic analysis of seized items. The accused allegedly had a strong fan following enabling them to potentially threaten witnesses. Concerns over evidence destruction were raised should the accused be granted bail. The victim, Renukaswamy, a Darshan fan, allegedly sent derogatory messages to Pavithra Gowda, leading to his kidnapping, torture, and death in Bengaluru. The case remains under investigation with further scrutiny of each accused's role pending.

Am Darshan's only wife: Vijayalakshmi

Vijayalakshmi, the wife of arrested actor Darshan, has written to Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda, clarifying that she is Darshan's only legally wedded wife. She refuted claims made by the commissioner and the Karnataka Home Minister that Pavithra Gowda is Darshan's spouse, stating that such errors have been reported in the national media. Vijayalakshmi emphasised that Pavithra Gowda, the primary suspect in the fan murder case, is merely a friend and was previously married to Sanjay Singh, with whom she has a daughter. Vijayalakshmi expressed concerns about potential future troubles for herself and her son, Vineesh, due to these inaccuracies. She expressed faith in the legal system, asserting that her marriage to Darshan took place on May 19, 2003, at Dharmasthala.

Mahadevapura irons out coal

First constituency in State to eliminate coal irons with community-driven initiative

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Mahadevapura is on its way to becoming the first constituency in Karnataka to eliminate the use of coal-powered iron boxes. On July 4, Udhyam Learning Foundation, in collaboration with Whitefield Rising, hosted a significant event in Mahadevapura to transition over twenty laundry pressers, known as Istriwalas, from coal-powered to eco-friendly LPG iron boxes.

This initiative is a part of Udhyam Vyapaar's larger Istri Project, which has already positively impacted the lives of more than 6,000 Istriwalas across four cities. The project has resulted in a collective income increase of 30 crores and a substantial reduction in coal consumption by 3,000 tonnes.

The move to LPG iron boxes is expected to bring multiple benefits to the Istriwalas. Not only will it improve their working conditions and health by eliminating exposure to harmful coal fumes, but it is also projected to boost their monthly incomes by over 25 per cent.

The partnership with Whitefield Rising marks a significant shift in the approach to community support. Nitya Ramakrishnan from Whitefield Rising highlighted the importance of community involvement, stating, "Community involvement is essential for driving impactful and sustainable change. We partnered with Udhyam Vyapaar because the Istri Project not only uplifts the income of Istri Vyapaaris but also benefits the environment. This collaboration shows how targeted interventions, supported by the community, can significantly improve the lives of local entrepreneurs."

Krishnan Ranganathan, Co-founder of Udhyam Learning Foundation, expressed gratitude for the partnership with Whitefield Rising. He said, "At Udhyam Vyapaar, we address these challenges with scalable solutions. We believe in the power of engaging with citizens to make these solutions scalable and accessible and partnering with a community group for the first time reinforces this belief. We are deeply thankful to Whitefield Rising for their support and look forward to forging more such partnerships to transform the lives of millions of nano-entrepreneurs."

This initiative in Mahadevapura is a significant step towards improving the livelihoods of local Istriwalas and promoting environmental sustainability. As the first community-driven effort of its kind, it serves as a model for other regions to follow, showcasing the powerful impact of community involvement in driving meaningful change.

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Safety first; introducing platform screen doors

K-RIDE plans to construct 12 stations for the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project in two phases, aiming for completion within next 24 months

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TheMallige corridor of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) is set to begin station construction soon. K-RIDE, a joint venture of the Karnataka government and the Ministry of Railways, has invited tenders for building 12 stations on the Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara route in two phases. Phase one includes Benniganahalli, Baiyappanahalli, Kasturi Nagar, Sevashrama, Banaswadi, Nagawara, Kanakanagara, Hebbal, and Mathikere, with phase two focusing on Yeshwanthpur, Shettyhalli, Mydanahalli, and Chikkabanavara. Officials expect the project to be finished within 24 months.

Successful bidder

An official said, "The scope of work for the successful bidder encompasses designing station buildings, including entrance and exit points, foot overbridges, roof structures, and architectural finishes. The contractor will be responsible for the construction of stations, covering civil works, electrical and mechanical systems, and signage. In 2023, tenders were called for constructing stations on the Mallige corridor, but only one bidder participated, quoting a price of Rs 800 crore, which exceeded the estimated cost. Consequently, the tender process was cancelled. The K-RIDE now aims to provide an efficient and reliable transportation system for Bengaluru residents."

Crucial transport link

Sources say that initially there was confusion over the capacity of railway stations on the Mallige corridor, whether they would accommodate three, six, or nine coaches. It's now clarified that the stations will be designed for nine coaches. Design work is ongoing, and construction is projected to finish by 2025. L&T Company secured the construction tender in 2022 with a 27-month deadline, but delays ensued due to late land handover by the railway department and pending forest department clearance. "Despite these setbacks, K-RIDE remains optimistic about completing the project by 2025 and commencing commercial operations on the Mallige corridor. Upon completion, the Mallige corridor will provide a crucial transportation link for Bengaluru, connecting the suburbs with the central business district. This project is anticipated to significantly reduce travel time and enhance the city's overall transportation infrastructure". said an official.

Despite setbacks, K-RIDE is optimistic about finishing the project by 2025 and starting commercial operations on the Mallige corridor

Platform screen doors

Namma Metro plans to introduce platform screen doors (PSDs) for phase two to prevent incidents following past experiences. K-Ride will also install PSDs in the suburban railway project for the same reason. "PSDs will serve as barriers between the platform and the tracks, preventing unauthorised access and reducing the risk of accidents and suicides. This installation is expected to significantly enhance safety at railway stations and prevent tragic incidents.

Installation of platform screen doors is expected to enhance safety and prevent tragic incidents

The suburban railway project aims to provide a safe and efficient transportation system for the people of Bengaluru, and the installation of PSDs is a crucial step toward achieving this goal," added an official.

12 stations

The Mallige corridor (Corridor-2) of the suburban railway project spans 25 kilometres and will feature 12 stations from Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara. K-RIDE plans two elevated stations and two interchange stations. The corridor includes 16.5 kilometres of ground-level track and an 8.5-kilometre elevated section from Hebbal to Yeshwantpur on a viaduct with two parallel tracks.

Slow work

Civic activist Rajkumar Dugar, convenor of Citizens for Citizens, has raised concerns about the progress of the BSRP. He stated, "Only 44 out of 72 kilometres (61%) of the project have been completed. BSRP is almost neglected, lacking the necessary support. Clearances from the South Western Railway, delays in the tender process, and permissions for extensions have all contributed to slow progress. Therefore, we urge Bengaluru's MPs and MLAs to actively review, facilitate, and monitor the project. The project was sanctioned on October 21, 2020, with a total network completion date set for October 21, 2026. However, as of June 21, only 7% of the work has been completed."

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Trash disarray

JC Nagar

Trash is scattered near a idli shop on JC Nagar Church Road, creating an unsightly mess.

Road congestion

Jakkur

At Raithare Santhe junction on 80 Feet Road in Jakkur, an Army vehicle is parked daily, obstructing the narrow road used for vegetable shopping. The lack of a visible registration number raises concerns about adherence to regulations.

Stuck in neutral; MODERATO signal trials hit roadblocks

Implementation of Japanese smart traffic signals in city encounters challenges, with issues at seven out of ten tested junctions

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.B31/SE(IT)/45453/2024-25 Date: 04.07.2024

NOTIFICATION

1. Applications are invited for the post of **Facility & Asset Manager on Contract Basis** for Operation and Maintenance of newly constructed Indhana Bhavan, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru.
2. The appointments are purely on contractual basis
3. The Last Date for submission of Application **is 12.07.2024 until 5.00 pm, IST.**

For more details, please visit **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl), (IT), KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-09.

The rollout of Japanese technology-powered smart traffic signals in the city has faced significant challenges, according to a senior police officer. Trials for the adaptive 'Management of Origin-Destination Related Adaptation for Traffic Optimisation' (MODERATO) signals, funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), have encountered issues at seven out of ten junctions tested in the first phase.

An official noted, "Key factors such as traffic volume and road width were not adequately considered, leading to these problems."

According to reports, the first phase of the rollout included testing the adaptive MODERATO signals at 10 key junctions, including Shoolay Circle, Kensington Road Junction, and the 80 Feet Road Junction in Indiranagar. Unfortunately, trials at these and several other junctions were unsuccessful, highlighting significant challenges in the implementation of the new system. However, there were successful trials at three locations: the 100 Feet Road Junction in Indiranagar, Mother Teresa Junction on Richmond Road, and Opera House Junction on Residency Road.

First phase MODERATO signals tests at 10 junctions showed mixed results

DULT is fine-tuning the system to rectify errors and improve functionality

Despite these issues, sources from the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) stated that the system is currently being fine-tuned at the problematic junctions. They explained that ongoing tests aim to identify and rectify errors in the system to ensure its effective functioning. "It is being observed and the necessary changes will be made to avoid any issues in future," said a DULT official.

With ongoing adjustments, there is hope that the MODERATO project will ultimately enhance traffic management across the city. **— Ahna Prakash**

‘DNA test alone not enough for conviction’

POCSO case: HC upholds acquittal saying unsafe to convict without corroboration

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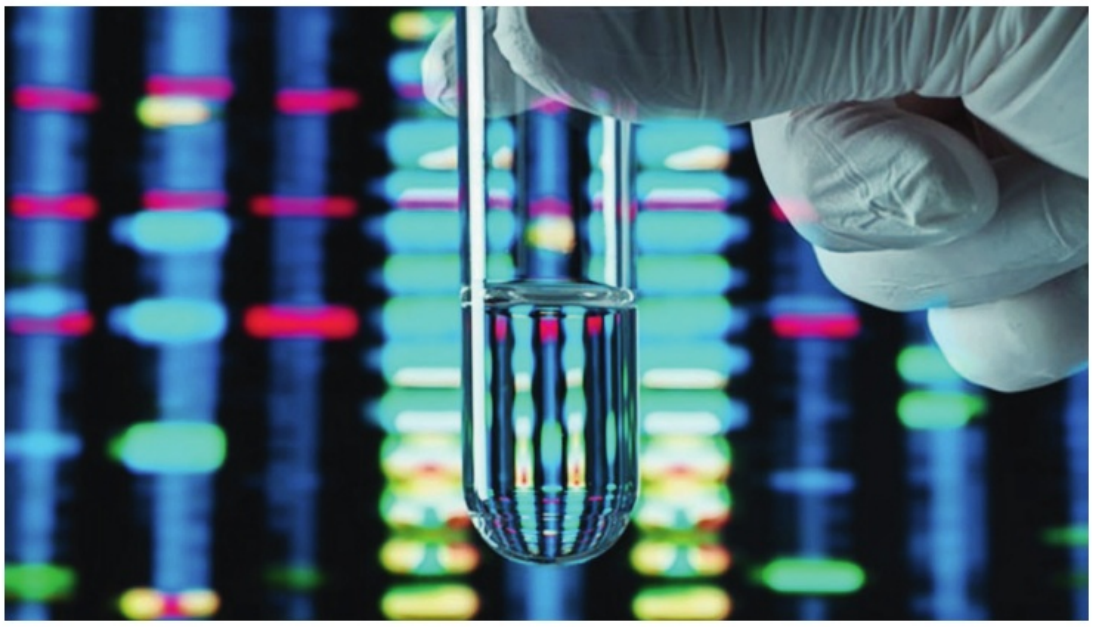

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the judgment of acquittal in a POCSO case because it is “highly unsafe” to convict a person relying solely on a DNA test. A Division Bench of Justice Mohammad Nawaz and Justice TG Shivashankare Gowda observed that “it is highly unsafe to convict the accused by relying on the DNA test alone, without any corroboration.”

A criminal appeal was filed under Sections 378(1) and (3) of the CrPC, challenging the acquittal of the respondents in a case involving serious charges under Sections 448, 376, 504, and 506 of the IPC; Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO); and Section 3(2)(v) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (SC/ST Act). The prosecution contended that the victim is a minor belonging to a Scheduled Caste and a resident of Aversa Village, Ankola Taluk. The accused, knowing that the victim was a minor and belonged to a Scheduled Caste, induced her by stating that he was in love with her and would marry her.

On April 17, 2014, at about 1:30 PM, when no one was present in her house, he trespassed into her house and, despite her resistance, committed forcible penetrative sexual assault on her. Further, the accused took her to a nearby hillock area several times and repeatedly committed penetrative sexual assault on her, as a result of which the victim became pregnant. It was added that the accused abused the victim and threatened her not to disclose the incident to others, thereby committing the charged offences.

A DNA examination was conducted, and as per the report, the victim is the biological mother and the accused is the biological father of the child. The prosecution therefore contended that the DNA examination report, being conclusive evidence to establish paternity of a child, meant that the learned Sessions Judge was not justified in discarding the evidence and acquitting the accused.

The learned counsel appearing for the accused, on the other hand, contended that the victim had denied the allegations made against the accused and even her close relatives—her grandmother, mother, and sisters—had also not supported the prosecution case.

It was argued that the DNA report is only an opinion and, without corroboration, the report alone cannot be accepted to convict the accused. It was further contended that the DNA examination was not conducted in accordance with the law and that there were procedural lapses. Therefore, based on the DNA report alone, it is highly unsafe to convict the accused.

The counsel argued in support of the judgment passed by the trial court and sought the dismissal of the appeal.

Domestic violence application can’t be dismissed without notice

The Karnataka High Court has held that an application made by a woman under provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, cannot be dismissed without issuing notice to the respondents or carrying out an inquiry, by the trial court. A single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna noted so while allowing a petition filed by a woman and setting aside the order of a trial court that had dismissed her application upon observing that the case does not project any domestic violence.

“A perusal of the complaint/application filed under Section 12 of the Act, there is abundant material to demonstrate prima facie that there was domestic violence by the respondents herein. A notice in the least or an inquiry in the least ought to have been conducted by the concerned Court. Nipping it in the bud by dismissing the complaint undoubtedly causes great prejudice to the wife – the applicant. If there is no case later found out, appropriate orders would be passed by the concerned Court not dismissing the complaint itself as maintenance, residence, and all other interim reliefs were also sought at the hands of the concerned Court by the petitioner–wife,” the court said.

“Since no notice was even issued to the respondents, I deem it appropriate to set aside the order impugned and restore the application before the concerned Court with a direction to the concerned Court to regulate its procedure and proceed further on its merit,” the court concluded.

Policy for official accountability approved

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday gave its approval for a new policy under which officials will face “consequences” for not following laws and giving wrong advice to the government, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said.

“The salient features of the ‘Law and Policy 2023’ are to ensure that the benefit of the Constitution reaches the people in terms of life with dignity; people should not be at the mercy of the government; the government should be at the service of the people; to ensure litigation-free villages; to start the Directorate of Legal Education; and to establish the Advocates Training Academy,” Patil said.

Briefing reporters on the Cabinet decisions, he said, “It also speaks about providing a conducive environment for professionals, new laws for better governance, a change in the litigation policy of the government to restrain from unnecessary litigations, and strengthening the system to respect human rights.”

The policy also provides for undertaking a massive Constitution literacy programme so that people are informed of their Constitutional rights and can exercise them effectively. The Minister further said, “Officials will be made to adhere to laws and rules, and they shall be accountable for the consequences of not following the laws and tendering wrong advice to the government.”

“Legal education will be enhanced, and the legal aid activities of law colleges and institutions involved in legal education and training NGOs will be coordinated to serve society,” he said.

Pointing out the policy’s measures to make departments follow laws and rules, Patil said the Department of Law is endeavoring to bring laws to make officers and staff of various departments commit to implementing the laws, with those not implementing them to be punished.

“There are laws which have not specified responsibilities and penalties; such a vacuum will now be addressed and appropriate measures will be brought in,” he added. —PTI

Full-stop on barred EV bike taxis from today

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Amidst the rollback of the Electric Bike Taxi Scheme 2021, the Karnataka Transport Department has initiated a clampdown on bike taxi operations. However, the bike taxi association has clarified that this applies only to EVs and threatened to file for contempt of court if action is taken against their other operations.

Following a massive protest by the union of private transport organisations against bike taxis, the transport department has issued an order imposing a clampdown on bike taxis starting Friday. RTO officials will ensure legal action against bike taxis operating on that day. The order stems from the Karnataka government’s withdrawal of the Electric Bike Taxi Scheme 2021, citing safety issues. According to the transport department’s order, action will be taken against bike taxis operating under the scheme. A special task force has been formed in 10 RTOs in Bengaluru to crack down on unauthorised EV bike taxis. However, the matter is currently in the Karnataka High Court, which has provided interim relief by directing the state government not to take any coercive steps.

Responding to the transport department’s decision, the private transport unions stated that they have been advocating for months to ban

bike taxis. “We have been requesting the ban on bike taxis for the past 3-4 months. The transport department has agreed in writing to ban bike taxis starting tomorrow. Additionally, they have agreed to enforce a uniform fare structure, limit commission charges to no more than 5 per cent for drivers/owners, and streamline the online permit application process to resolve technology hurdles within a week,” said S Nataraj Sharma, President of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Association.

The bike taxi association has warned of filing contempt of court proceedings if any action is taken against their members. “Some social media reports have indicated that a letter from the office of the transport commissioner orders the seizure of EV bikes and unauthorised bike taxis. Based on this letter, some auto unions have threatened to forcefully halt bike taxi operations and seize vehicles in Bengaluru. Firstly, we want to clarify that the letter pertains specifically to EV bike taxis. Secondly, bike taxi operations are protected by orders from the Honourable High Court of Karnataka. All unions were parties to this case, and the High Court has directed the state government to take action against anyone harassing or threatening Uber, Rapido, or any bike taxi drivers.

“We strongly urge that if any such incidents occur against our bike taxi union members, we will personally file contempt cases against those violating individuals,” said Adi Narayana, President of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, Karnataka. “Following the High Court order, our union members have met with the Commissioner of Police Bengaluru on several occasions, and he has assured strict action against any reported violations of the High Court orders.”

All hands on deck at Lalbagh for I-Day show

Much-awaited flower show to showcase Dr Ambedkar's life & achievements, Constitution

Sridhar.Vivan
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It's that time of the year again. Preparations have begun at Lalbagh Botanical Garden for this year's Independence Day flower show, which will pay a special tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar, honouring his role as the architect of the Indian Constitution. With a focus on showcasing special flowers and plants, the State Horticulture Department is busy preparing the show with an Ambedkar theme, a concept previously discussed but not yet realised.

The flower show will take place at various iconic locations within Lalbagh, including the Glass House, Bandstand, and near Lalbagh Rock. It will feature a vibrant array of flowers, such as roses, gerbera, orchids, and others, creatively arranged to depict Ambedkar's image, the Constitution, and elements of his life. To ensure optimal conditions, a fogger system will maintain a cool environment, safeguarding the flowers from the sun and rain.

The centrepiece at the Glass House will be a pyramid-shaped arrangement of flowers, complemented by a bonsai garden showcasing specially cultivated plants. The department also plans to conduct discussions highlighting Ambedkar's remarkable life and contributions, aiming to inspire attendees with his legacy. "The flower show will present a diverse array of flowers such as anthuriums, roses, gerberas, orchids, hydrangeas, impatiens, red hot pokers, alliums, lilies, and more. Additionally, visitors can explore a variety of fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. The department has also scheduled a gardening competition and an exhibition featuring intricately carved fruits and vegetables. This event celebrates Ambedkar's significant contributions to the nation while promoting gardening and horticulture. The department aims to honour him with a special tribute through this memorable event, scheduled from August 15 to 23. We encourage the public to participate enthusiastically," added an official.

"This event celebrates Dr BR Ambedkar's significant contributions to the nation while promoting gardening and horticulture

–Official

Fogger systems in action to maintain the optimal condition of flowers during the 2023 Independence Day show, which was a tribute to Kengal Hanumanthaiah (file photo)

Some interesting facts about the bi-annual flower show

Currently held as Republic Day and Independence Day shows, the flower show was exhibited as summer and winter shows earlier. Since 1951, the shows have been organised on Independence and Republic Day programmes. It takes more than five months of meticulous planning with 200 people to execute this event. During the Covid years, both shows were cancelled due to restrictions. An official said, "The Lalbagh flower shows, held twice a year, have become highly anticipated events that capture the essence of natural beauty and thematic creativity. Each show brings forth a unique spectacle of meticulously arranged flowers, plants, and themed displays that resonate with visitors from all walks of life."

These exhibitions not only showcase the horticultural diversity of Lalbagh but also serve as a cultural celebration, drawing inspiration from India's rich heritage and contemporary issues. With themes that range from historical milestones to environmental awareness, they offer a visual feast that educates and delights alike. They provide a platform for gardeners, artists, and enthusiasts to showcase their talents while fostering a deeper appreciation for nature's bounty and the importance of sustainable practices. "The enthusiasm and participation surrounding these events promote their significance in Bengaluru's cultural calendar, attracting locals and tourists alike. Whether it's the vibrant displays, innovative designs, or the community spirit they foster, the Lalbagh flower shows continue to enchant and inspire, making them eagerly awaited occasions year after year."

K'taka to get 300 e-buses

A tender has been invited by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to induct 300 electric buses (225 non-AC and 75 AC) on a lease model. The buses will be inducted on a gross-cost contract model for a period of 12 years.

While 205 of the 300 buses will be 12-metre non-AC intercity buses (2x3 seating), 75 will be 12-metre AC deluxe intercity buses (2x2 reclining seats), and 20 will be 12-metre non-AC city buses (2x2 seating). These are going to be deployed to operate on inter-city routes. It is likely that 50 of them will be set out for Tumakuru division, 45 for Kolar, 40 for Puttur, 45 for Mangaluru, 30 for Mysuru Rural, 20 for Mysuru Urban, 40 for Chikkaballapur, and 20 for Ramanagara. Since they are being acquired on a lease basis, KSRTC will be responsible only for assigning the conductor, while hiring the driver, maintenance, and operation of the bus will be taken care of by the contractor. The buses are required to have panic buttons, CCTV cameras, and dash cameras, among other features, and are required to run 250 km per day with the ability to cover 180 km on a single charge. –BMB

Tribute to Jumbo Arjuna

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre announced on Thursday that the foundation stone for the construction of a memorial for elephant Arjuna will be laid on July 6 at 12.30 pm at Arjuna's grave site in the Dabbali Katte Plantation of Yasalur Forest Zone in Hassan.

Arjuna died on December 4, 2023, in a fight with a wild elephant during an elephant capture operation by the Karnataka Forest Department near Yeslur. The foundation stone for another memorial will also be laid on the same day in the Nagarhole forest area, where Arjuna spent most of his life. His statue, along with pictures of him carrying eight golden ambara, participating in various elephant, tiger, and leopard capture operations, will also be installed at both memorials. –BMB

Desperate plea for restoration of Banaswadi Lake

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In a plea to local officials, residents of OMBR Layout, HRBR Layout, Dodda Banaswadi, and Chikka Banaswadi have expressed their growing concerns over the neglected state of Banaswadi Lake (Survey No 211). The lake, which holds significant potential for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, has been conspicuously absent from the list of 210 lakes slated for rejuvenation by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Citizens from these neighbourhoods have come together, highlighting the urgent need to restore Banaswadi Lake. "We have seen this lake deteriorate over the years. It's heartbreaking to witness a natural resource go to waste when it could significantly benefit our community," said Ravi Kumar, a long-time resident of Kasturi Layout.

The residents in their petition highlighted that approval by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for a Rs 3,500 crore pledge from the World Bank for water management and flood mitigation in Bengaluru has given residents renewed hope. With the BBMP recently holding its first meeting with World Bank representatives to outline the steps ahead, the residents pointed out that they see an opportune moment to channel some of these funds towards the rejuvenation of Banaswadi Lake. "The Comprehensive Development Plan for Banaswadi Lake is already in place. It just needs the necessary funding and support to be implemented. We are hopeful that our officials will recognise the importance of this project and allocate a portion of the funds towards it," said a resident.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

'Banaswadi Lake is absent from the list of 210 lakes slated for rejuvenation by BBMP'

The collective appeal, underscored by nearly 5,000 signatures, includes heartfelt messages from children who fear for their future due to environmental neglect. "We owe it to our children to preserve and protect our natural resources. By rejuvenating Banaswadi Lake, we can ensure a sustainable environment for them and future generations."

Residents argue that the revival of the lake will not only address the pressing issue of water scarcity and groundwater depletion in the locality but will also enhance the ecological and recreational value of the area. As constituents of the Sarvagna Nagar constituency, the residents have urged officials to prioritise this initiative. Their letter to the authorities reads: "We firmly believe that the revival of Banaswadi Lake aligns with broader efforts towards sustainable urban development and environmental conservation. We implore you to champion our cause and work towards its swift implementation for the collective benefit of our community."

1st dengue bulletin has 123 cases

BBMP limits exhibit highest caseload in state, accounting for nearly half of total cases

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Fumigation in progress at Cubbon Park

As many as 123 individuals tested positive for dengue within the BBMP limits on Thursday, coinciding with the Health Department's initiation of a daily dengue bulletin. This marks the third regular health update following covid-19 and Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) bulletins.

According to the first bulletin, 527 serum samples were tested, resulting in 123 positive cases with a test positivity rate (TPR) of 23.34% and no deaths, with all positive cases being active. Since January 1, 5,488 serum samples have been tested within the BBMP limits, yielding 1,686 positive results thereby the TPR being 30.73% and one death. Statewide, 1,502 samples were tested on Thursday, with 286 testing positive and a TPR of 19.04%.

The BBMP limits exhibit the highest dengue caseload in the state, accounting for nearly half of the total cases. Analysing the age distribution of the latest 24-hour data reveals that four children under one year old tested positive (3.25% of the total cases), 50 patients were between the ages of one and 18 years (40.65%), and 69 were adults aged 18 years and above (56.10%).

Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao has mandated that all district officials visit every household within the next two weeks to increase awareness about dengue fever. During a video conference held on Thursday, he emphasised the need for door-to-door surveys and testing in areas with reported positive cases.

Test charge

Rao also stressed the importance of conducting tests in private hospitals and laboratories and taking action against those charging excessive fees for testing. The government has fixed the rates for dengue tests in the state after receiving complaints about overcharging. The Health Department has issued an order setting the rates for various tests, including ELISA NS1, ELISA IGm, and the Rapid Card Test. The fixed rates are Rs 300 for the ELISA NS1 test, Rs 300 for the ELISA IGm test, and Rs 250 for the Rapid Card Test. This directive follows reports of private hospitals and laboratories charging between Rs 1,500 and Rs 3,000 for dengue tests.

Rao has mandated that private hospitals report all dengue-positive cases to the government. In earlier meetings, Rao discussed strategies to curb the rising incidence of dengue fever, which has surged by 42% compared to last year. Private hospitals are now required to test for dengue fever and report positive results to the government. Health officials have been instructed to implement necessary preventative measures. From January till date, the state reported 6,676 dengue cases and six deaths. Minister Rao stressed the importance of awareness and prevention, especially in high-risk districts such as Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Mysuru, Haveri, Chitradurga, Shivamogga, and Dakshina Kannada. He directed health officials to conduct fogging and larva control, and encouraged Asha workers.

> **The epidemic risk has surged from 8 to 30-fold in recent decades, with dengue now contributing to 16% of travel-related febrile illnesses**

30-fold increase in dengue risk

The World Health Organisation (WHO), in its recent report, highlighted a 30-fold increase in the dengue epidemic risk over the past two decades in India and other parts of Southeast Asia. It also identified neglected factors, like platelet-related infections, as contributors. Since the first isolation of the dengue virus in the year 1943, nearly four serotypes have been identified. According to the 'Southeast Asia dialogue' released by the WHO, urbanisation and international travel are key factors facilitating the spread of dengue, which is now responsible for 16% of travel-related febrile illnesses. "The epidemic risk has surged from 8 to 30-fold in recent decades, with dengue now contributing to 16% of travel-related febrile illnesses," as highlighted in the dialogue.

Calling it quits to let the race go on

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Finally it appears that soon horses will be back on track at the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC). The Managing Committee of the BTC in a meeting with the two Government nominated Stewards, Additional Chief Secretary, LK Atheeq and Police Commissioner, B Dayananda on Wednesday made it clear that the six-member committee, following the resignation of two Stewards and two Committee members who quit a couple of days ago, will resign after the meeting with the club members to be held on Saturday.

"The Committee is duty bound to apprise the members of the current position of the club, the dialogue initiated with the government and what's in store before we tender our resignations," said BTC chairman Arvind Raghavan. The Club, it is learnt, explained that the government will need to first nominate four members of the club in place of the four who have resigned to conduct the operations and keep the show going once BTC gains the licence till the next managing committee elections in September.

The fact that the government has initiated dialogue suggests that it won't be long before the government gives the green signal to start racing activities at this premier centre.

A senior member of the club revealed that the government will appoint all the four new members, two Stewards and two Committee members of their choice. And the four names will be disclosed in a couple of days. The BTC who have no say in this matter, it is learnt have suggested to the government to co-opt people with sound racing knowledge.

Licence apart, BTC next needs to address the shifting of the race course issue and more importantly

> **Government has begun dialogue so it is likely that it would also give its nod to start racing activities at turf club**

convince the government to file a Joint Memo before the Supreme Court to seek further time for final hearing of the Civil Appeals bearing No: 3264/3265 of 2015. The word doing the rounds at the corridors of power is that the government is planning to give the Club 115 acres of land at the Kunigal Stud Farm and the decision makers of the club, understanding that with not many options left to choose, need to agree and accept this offer despite the fact that Kunigal town is 60 km away from the Bengaluru City and the connectivity too is not fast. On one hand, even if BTC accepts to shift to Kunigal, on the other hand they want to retain 6-7 acres of land and buildings on the existing premises to conduct betting operations of all on-course and off-course betting. The government, it is learnt, is not willing to yield to this request. But in all fairness the government must honour the 6-7 acre request, taking into account that 72-acres are coming into the government fold.

PM2.5 killed 33,000 annually in India; 2,100 in B'luru

Short-term air pollution exposure claimed 33,000 lives annually in 10 cities in India and Delhi tops the list with 12,000 deaths every year, according to a study published on Thursday in The Lancet Planetary Health.

The study showed increases in the risk of death were steep at lower concentrations of PM2.5 and tapered off at higher concentrations. Even levels of air pollution below the current National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 60 micrograms per cubic meter lead to increased daily mortality rates in India, showed the findings led by an international team of researchers from Ashoka University, Sustainable Futures Collaborative (SFC) -- an independent Delhi-based research organisation -- and Boston University (US).

Delhi had the highest across all cities studied, followed by Mumbai (about 5,100 each year), while Shimla had the lowest air pollution levels yet it claimed 59 lives per year.

The other cities include Kolkata (4,700 each year), Chennai (2,900 each year), Ahmedabad (2,500 each year), Bengaluru (2,100 each year), Hyderabad (1,600 each year), Pune (1,400 each year), Varanasi (830 each year). "We found that about 33,000 deaths per year across these cities are attributable to air quality levels that exceed the WHO 24-hr exposure guideline (15 micrograms per cubic meter of air), with Delhi topping, followed by Mumbai," said Bhargav Krishna, Environmental health and policy researcher at SFC, in a post on X.com.

> **Study shows rise in risk of death steep at lower concentrations of PM2.5 and tapered off at higher concentrations**

The team based the study on short-term exposure to PM 2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 microns in size) and daily mortality in 10 cities between 2008 and 2019.

For the study, they used novel causal modelling techniques that isolate the heightened impact of local sources of air pollution such as waste burning and vehicular emissions among others, and generated estimates of mortality attributable to air pollution for cities (such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata) and at lower concentrations previously unstudied in India

The results showed that between 2008-19, 7.2 per cent of deaths were due to high short-term air pollution in these cities. Using a hybrid machine learning-based exposure model the team observed a significant number of deaths even in cities like Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune -- generally considered to have good to moderate air quality. "Every 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air increment in PM2.5 was associated with a 1.42 per cent increase in daily deaths," Bhargav said.

—IANS

Pittance for Madiwala Lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

measures to have oxygenating pond plants to ensure oxygen in the water for the benefit of fish," said Narayana Hegde, a lake warden.

Namma Kere Trust managing trustee R Rajagopalan, said that Madiwala Lake, one of the largest lakes within the city limits, spread over 110 hectare now has been granted a miniscule Rs 15 crore for maintenance works, which is literally a drop in the bucket.

"Residents are fretting about how much this grant can help the lake with, while for years now it has needed desilting, hyacinth removal and debris clearance. So far, officials have been unable to protect that large periphery from being used by tractors to dump construction debris at night. A solid waste management (SWM) transfer point near the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) sewage treatment plant (STP) has been an eyesore for some time. Industrial effluents and sewage issues still persist with its water quality," said Rajagopalan.

He said that a Rs 100-crore grant for a Biodiversity Park and Lake Development from 2016 never fructified which the current Chief Minister Siddaramiah had promised during his previous tenure.

"The lake perhaps could be transformed into a weekend destination if proper fund allocation and a plan is put forth to restore it to its glory days," he said.

A resident of the area said the BBMP has to allocate funds for weeding of the lake. "The need of the hour is to utilise the funds prudently to improve water quality in the lake by preventing flow of sewage into it," said the resident.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) said that developmental works such as rebuilding pathways, construction of shelters for watchmen, gazebos, and installing child play equipment would be undertaken with this fund.

Don't feed the monkeys!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officials suggested that we bring in rescuers through an interview process. We have received approval from the Chief Commissioner to constitute the committee and hire rescuers. These rescuers will be dealing with calls that we receive from various parts of the city regarding monkey menace. We are in the process of constituting the committee. Rescuers will be hired by the end of the month," said Swamy.

Problem areas

BBMP officials say most of the calls regarding monkey menace come from areas such as Mahadevapura and RR Nagar. They say many residents of these areas feed them and thus troops after troops keep coming in search of food.

"We have received eight complaints of monkey menace from these areas in one month. We have observed that citizens in these areas are feeding monkeys regularly. They are handing over fruits and other food items. This is forcing troops to keep coming back. However, our officials on ground are engaging this group of citizens and trying to spread awareness about the issue. Our current rescuers are also speaking with Resident Welfare Associations and complainants to manage the situation better. We are also trying to identify other issues that are leading to their return," said another official.

While smaller groups are easy to manage, untrained rescuers handling troops of 15 to 20 monkeys or above can turn into a dangerous situation.

"BBMP must look at spreading awareness about not feeding the primates. Monkeys tend to get hostile when fed. In case of bigger troops, BBMP rescuers should be trained enough to be able to catch the primates causing trouble and release them in other areas," said a citizen.

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I, VINOD KUMAR S/o Madan Lal Sharma @ Madan Lal Rajpurohit, R/at No.2147/A, 8th A Main, D Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR RAJPUROHIT, vide affidavit dt: 03.07.2024 before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

I, VANI SARADA W/o Radhamadhu Prabhakar Rao R/o GP-2 302, Astro Green Park Regency, Halanayakanahalli, Carmelram PO, Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name to BHATTIPROLU VANI SARADA, Affidavit Dt.04/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, RISHABH SHARMA, S/o Ajai Kumar Sharma, residing at No.D2084, Sobha Moonstone Apartment, Dasarahalli main road, Kempapura, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024 have changed my name to RISHABH AJAI SHARMA, vide affidavit dt: 03.07.2024 sworn before notary A. Gerard, B.lore.

I, Aditya S/o Mahesh Shankar Jagajjiven R/o B4-1313, 13th Floor, Gokulam Apartments, Vasantha Vallabha Nagar, Kanakapura Road,Po:Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Aditya Mahesh for all purposes

I Sreedurga Thertmala Variam D/o Damodaran Therthala Neetil R/o No.102, Sri Sai Nilaya, 3rd Flr, 4th Cross, Mallappa Layout, Babusapalya, Bengaluru. 560043 have changed my name to Sree Durga Sankar for all purposes.

I Kavya Pemmaiah W/o A.K. Cariappa R/o # 30, 2nd Cross, Ramaiah Reddy Colony, Sec-C, Basavanagar , Marathahalli post B'lore-560037 have changed my name to Kavya Manira Pemmaiah for all purposes

I Akshata Puranikmath W/O, Veerayya Pathrimath R/o Atkadakol Tq-savanur Dist-haveri have changed my name to Akshata Veerayya Pathrimath.

I, MALA SINNOOR W/o Vinayak Swadi, residing at No.207, "Achuth Classic", ITI Layout, Mallathahalli, Bangalore-560056 have changed my name to MALA SWADI, vide affidavit dated 15.06.2024 before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

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I, B Kathiravan Residing at No.2716, 14th Main Road, RPC Layout, Bangalore-560040 have lost Property documents in Chandra Layout. Document name : Property Allotment Letter Possession Certificate and BDA Khatha, Document No : Site No . 2716, PID 40-2-11. If anybody found the above said documents please contact nearby police station or Call: 9448891102

I Rajashekar BR, 113,1st main Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore 560079, have lost my Diploma certificate and marksheet year 2003, Reg #023368-7, Karnataka Technical Examination Board FIR# 1124851/2024, contact: rajbyalya5@gmail.com

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HEAVY DOSAGE

Taking too many medications can pose health risks. Here's how to avoid them

When we see an older family member handling a bulky box of medications sorted by day of the week, we might stop and wonder, is it too much? How do all those pills interact?

The fact is, as we get older we are more likely to develop different chronic illnesses that require us to take several different medications. This is known as polypharmacy. The concept applies to people taking five or more medications, but there are all sorts of definitions with different thresholds (for example, four, 10 or 15 medicines).

I'm a pharmacist and pharmacoepidemiologist interested in polypharmacy and its impact on the population. The research I carry out with my team at the Faculty of Pharmacy at Université Laval focuses on the appropriate use of medication by older family members. We have published this study on the perceptions of older adults, family carers and clinicians on the use of medication among persons over 65.

Polypharmacy among older adults

Polypharmacy is very common among older adults. In 2021, a quarter of persons over 65 in Canada were prescribed more than ten different classes of medication. In Québec, persons over 65 used an average of 8.7 different drugs in 2016, the latest year available for statistics.

Is it a good idea to take so many drugs?

According to our study, the vast majority of seniors and family caregivers would be willing to stop taking one or more medications if the doctor said it was possible, even though most are satisfied with their treatments, have confidence in their doctors and feel that their doctors are taking care of them to the best of their ability.

In the majority of cases, medicine prescribers are helping the person they are treating. Medications have a positive impact on health and are essential in many cases. But while the treatment of individual illnesses is often adequate, the whole package can sometimes become problematic.

The risks of polypharmacy: 5 points to consider

When we evaluate cases of polypharmacy, we find that the quality of treatment is often compromised when many medications are being taken.

1. Drug interactions: polypharmacy increases the risk of drugs interacting, which can lead to undesirable effects or reduce the effectiveness of treatments.
2. A drug that has a positive effect on one illness may have a negative effect on another: what should you do if someone has both illnesses?
3. The greater the number of drugs taken, the greater the risk of undesirable effects: for adults over 65, for example, there is an increased risk of confusion or falls, which have significant consequences.
4. The more medications a person takes, the more likely they are to take a potentially inappropriate medication. For seniors, these drugs generally carry more risks than benefits. For example, benzodiazepines, medicine for anxiety or sleep, are the most frequently used class of medications. We want to reduce their use as much as possible to avoid negative impacts such as confusion and increased risk of falls and car accidents, not to mention the risk of dependence and death.
5. Finally, polypharmacy is associated with various adverse health effects, such as an increase in frailty, hospital admissions and emergency room visits. However, studies conducted to date have not always succeeded in isolating the effects specific to polypharmacy. As polypharmacy is more common among people with multiple illnesses, these illnesses may also contribute to the observed risks.

Polypharmacy is also a combination of medicines. There are almost as many as there are people. The risks of these different combinations can vary. For example, the risks associated with a combination of five potentially inappropriate drugs would certainly be different from those associated with blood pressure medication and vitamin supplements.

Polypharmacy is therefore complex. Our studies attempt to use artificial intelligence to manage this complexity and identify combinations associated with negative impacts. There is still a lot to learn about polypharmacy and its impact on health.

3 tips to avoid the risks associated with polypharmacy

What can we do as a patient, or as a caregiver? Ask questions: when you or someone close to you is prescribed a new treatment, be curious. What are the benefits of the medication? What are the possible side effects? Does this fit in with my treatment goals and values? How long should this treatment last? Are there any circumstances in which discontinuing it should be considered ?

Keep your medicines up to date: make sure they are all still useful. Are there still any benefits to taking them? Are there any side effects? Are there any drug interactions? Would another treatment be better? Should the dose be reduced?

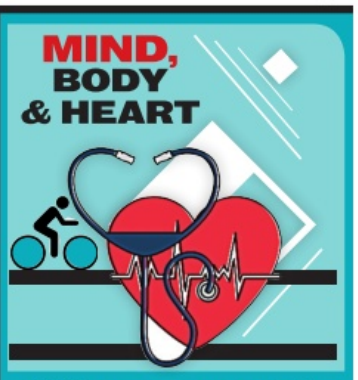
Think about de-prescribing: this is an increasingly common clinical practice that involves stopping or reducing the dose of an inappropriate drug after consulting a health-care professional. It is a shared decision-making process that involves the patient, their family and health-care professionals. The Canadian Medication Appropriateness and Deprescribing Network is a world leader in this practice. It has compiled a number of tools for patients and clinicians. You can find them on their website and subscribe to the newsletter.

Benefits should outweigh the risks

Medications are very useful for staying healthy. It's not uncommon for us to have to take more medications as we age, but this shouldn't be seen as a foregone conclusion.

Every medication we take must have direct or future benefits that outweigh the risks associated with them. As with many other issues, when it comes to polypharmacy, the saying, "everything in moderation," frequently applies.

(By Caroline Sirois, Universite Laval, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Tips for new mothers

Breast milk and formula
Improper storage or handling of breast milk and formula can lead to contamination and potentially harmful bacteria, compromising the baby's health. New moms should educate themselves on safe practices for expressing, storing, and warming breast milk, as well as preparing and storing formula to ensure optimal safety and nutrition for their baby.
There are more to this. Co-founder of AreoVeda, Taru Mayur who shares essential safety and health aspects concerning new moms.

Mood swings
The postpartum period can be challenging because of the hormonal fluctuations and mood changes the new moms go through. A study published in 2017 suggested that over 22% of new mothers report postpartum depression in India. While this statistic can be scary, the real picture is more worrisome. "Many incidences of depression go unrecognised and unreported. This is compounded by the fact that minor mood fluctuations that do not meet the diagnostic category of depression often go unnoticed," says Taru. "Owing to the growing awareness of this issue, access to mental health care is easier than ever. If you are a family member of a new mother, it is vital to be cognizant of these symptoms and to make her feel loved, comfortable and cared for. The smallest gesture can go a long way in ensuring better mental health," she adds.

Food allergies
The introduction of solid foods and the management of potential food allergies can be a source of immense stress and confusion for new parents. From identifying and avoiding allergens to coping with the shift to solids, it can be daunting.
"An effective way to go about it is to work closely with your healthcare providers to develop a comprehensive feeding plan that addresses their child's unique needs," says Taru. **— Femina**

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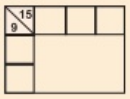
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

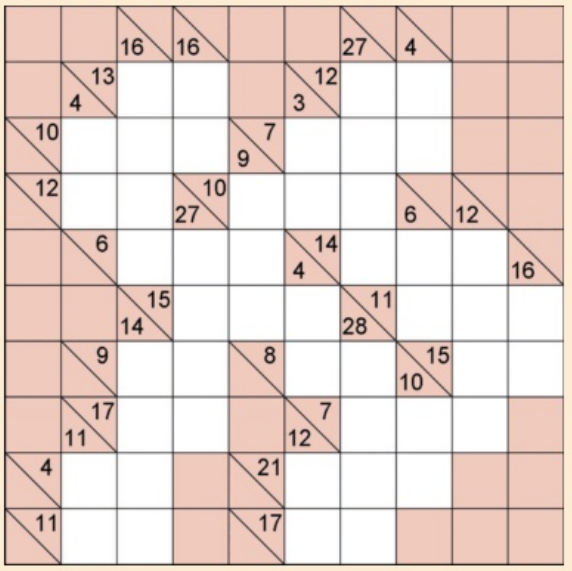
$\sqrt{(\sqrt{3})} \times \sqrt{(\sqrt{27})} = ?$

Kakuro

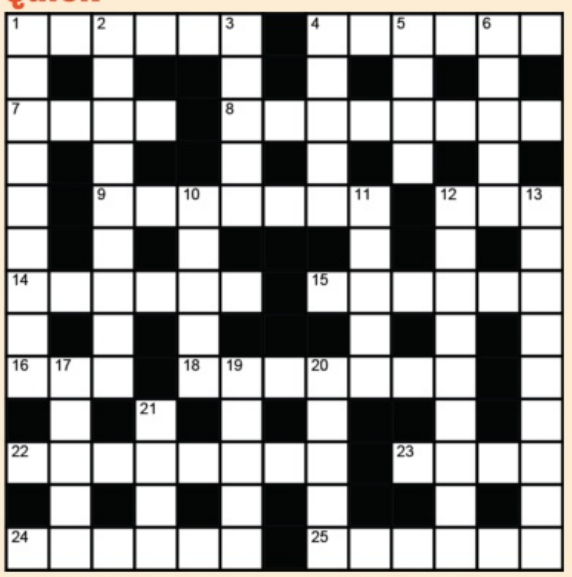
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sidestepped (6)
4 Road used as a detour (6)
7 Leaning Tower's city (4)
8 Trying to remain inconspicuous (5,3)
9 Make bigger (7)
12 Small guitar (3)
14 Violet blue dye (6)
15 Capital of Albania (6)
16 Mother in short (3)
18 English Vinglish was one of her last films (7)
22 National park between Mysore and Ooty (8)
23 A hard, cross-grained part of a piece of wood (4)
24 Analysed a sentence (6)
25 Dripped, leaked or secreted (6)

DOWN

1 Mild agreeable expression (9)
2 Dutch city (9)
3 Greek letter (5)
4 Fetch (5)
5 Domestic hogs (4)
6 Violent surprise (5)
10 City in Nigeria (5)
11 Chosen few (5)
12 Not properly lined up (9)
13 Wasted away, very thin (9)
17 City in Japan (5)
19 Speedy (5)
20 Doleful song (5)
21 Kinds of poems (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS H

G OPUFC'R QHFIR YTM RFC EPWQ, XFZPDQF ROPR KTDHE XF RTT HTCJ.–VGRZO OFEXFMJ

Linemaro

Is your name Wi-Fi? Because I am really feeling a connection

Mindchow

The only human institution that rejects change is the cemetery

Joke of the day

Dentists tell you not to pick your teeth with any sharp metal object. Then you sit in their chair... and the first thing they grab is an iron hook.

Loop

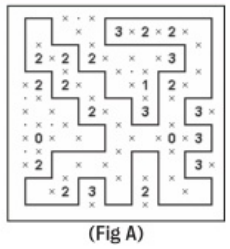
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

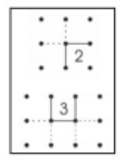
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

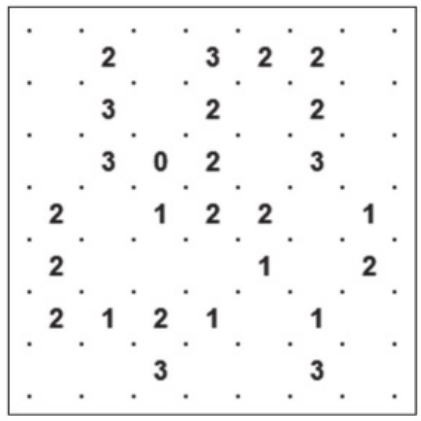
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



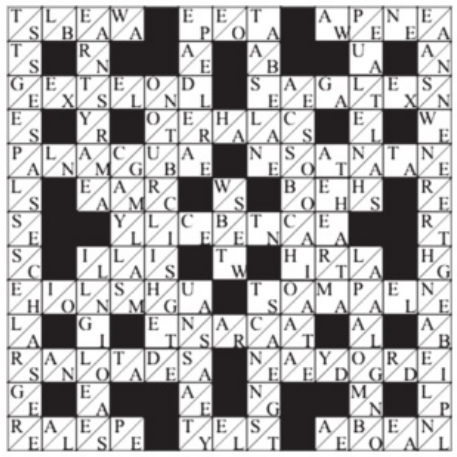
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



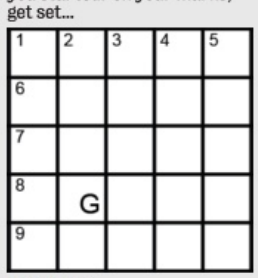
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Lutra; 6 Snare; 7 Or CCs; 8 Age at; 9 It pet

DOWN

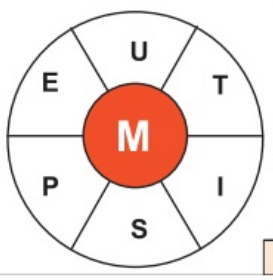
1 Up can; 2 Elgar; 3 Tarot; 4 Trice; 5 Sates

Mensapuzzle

The first 10 numbers appear in a logical sequence below. In what positions do the 2 and 3 appear?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 10 ? ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

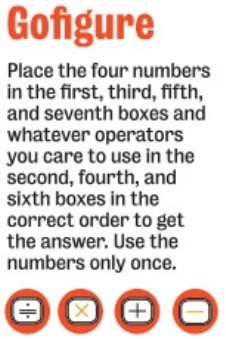
SudokuChallenge

	5						4	
	9	3				1	2	
			3	8	1			
6			1	3	9			2
		9	4		7	6		
7			8	5	6			3
			2	4	8			
	6	4				8	5	
	8						1	

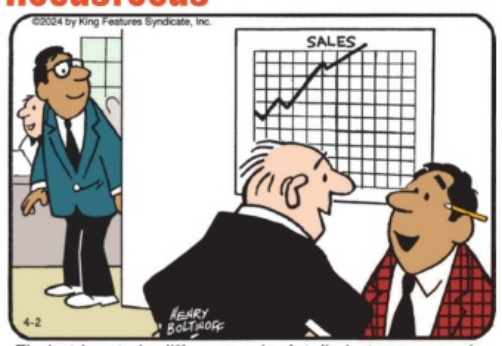
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

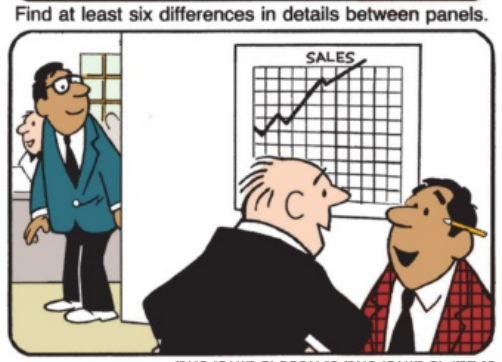
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



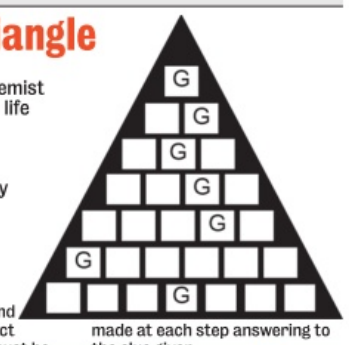
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Lapel is missing. 3. Chart is not as wide. 4. Window is different. 5. Ear is different. 6. Nose is different.

Riddler

I have a triangular table which has sides of 20, 25 and 50 inches. What is the area of the table?

Alpha triangle

1 7th letter
2 Silver for the chemist
3 The time of your life
4 Fury
5 Very big
6 In abundance
7 Trellised walkway

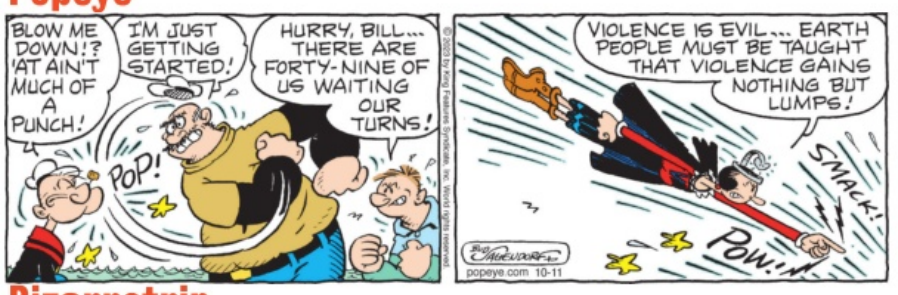


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


BLOW ME DOWN!? 'AT AIN'T MUCH OF A PUNCH!
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!
HURRY, BILL... THERE ARE FORTY-NINE OF US WAITING OUR TURNS!
POP!
VIOLENCE IS EVIL... EARTH PEOPLE MUST BE TAUGHT THAT VIOLENCE GAINS NOTHING BUT LUMPS!
SMACK!
POW!
popeye.com 10-11

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 4-2-24
BUNNY HOPS
Our hoppy beer will now come with a share of brewery stock.
IPA IPO
BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features
©2024 BIZARRO Studios

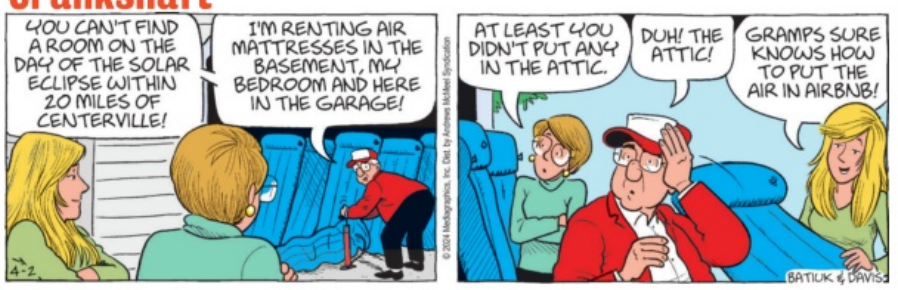
Diamond Lil

I GREW UP IN A REALLY STRANGE TOWN
HOW STRANGE WAS IT?
THE GAS STATION WAS A CHILI DOG STAND
©2024 creators.com 4/2
www.creators.com
Brankston

Hart of the city

I KNOW IT'S A PUPPY LOVE PHOTO BOOTH AND WE'RE SUPPOSE TO KISS, BUT... I HAVEN'T PRACTICED AT ALL.
PRACTICE?! I HAVEN'T MOVED TO HUMAN TRIALS YET! I'M STILL IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT!!
DO YOU... WANT TO HOLD MY HAND?
YES. THIS WILL BE A GOOD EXPERIMENT.
HART OF THE CITY © 2024 AUDREY MOKUTEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


YOU CAN'T FIND A ROOM ON THE DAY OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE WITHIN 20 MILES OF CENTERVILLE!
I'M RENTING AIR MATTRESSES IN THE BASEMENT, MY BEDROOM AND HERE IN THE GARAGE!
AT LEAST YOU DIDN'T PUT ANY IN THE ATTIC.
DUH! THE ATTIC!
GRAMPS SURE KNOWS HOW TO PUT THE AIR IN AIRBNB!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel nervous, and you may be impatient. You may also be attracted to the occult; it is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also gain deep knowledge on a subject, or you may have a good focus on your research.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your moon is in a good position; you may expect some positive momentum in professional and domestic life. You may likely expect gains in terms of your investments. You may get reciprocation for your help from your friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may have a good day today. Kids' health is better now, and you may plan to make some investments for their future. You are likely to be more loyal to your job. You may be able to find your hidden enemies, and with the help of blessings, you may counter them. Job seekers may find a good job with the help of a reference.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may hear some good news in terms of a job. Job seekers can plan for higher education to grow their careers with the help of hard work. Singles may find their soulmate and get engaged to them. You may also hear some good news in terms of childbirth.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; it may help you find your way out to success. You may be busy with family and friends; you will plan to go on an outing or some adventure tour with either of them. Kids' health might make you upset. Your savings may increase, which may increase your financial health.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be full of vitality and inner strength. You may be likely to make good plans for the growth of your family business. You may be blessed by elders' wisdom, so you might be able to implement new plans efficiently with the help of your team. Your wisdom may help you make some good decisions, which may increase your social status.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, with the help of blessings, you may expect to make some gains from your past investments. You may also plan to renovate the house or office; invest in some intellectual assets, like buying some books or updating your knowledge; and plan for higher studies. Singles are likely to find their soulmates in the same field. Natives involved in research, education, and agricultural work may perform better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health, and you may enjoy your work. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; otherwise, there may be some disputes in the family. With your polite speech, you can expect healthy partnerships in business and harmony in the family. Job seekers may find suitable jobs. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussing worthless topics.

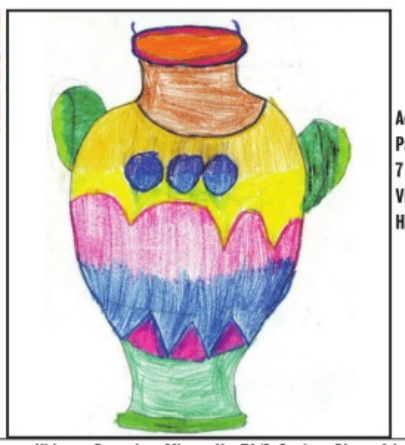
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your vital power may slow down, and your old disease may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rush-hour driving. You are also advised to avoid any type of ligation; you may settle it out of the jury. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may get profits from your past investments, and your losses may be converted into profits. You may also achieve success easily, and the implementation of new ideas may make progress in the business. You are likely to meet an influential person who may show you the right path to success. Lovebirds may make some decisions in terms of marriage. Couples will hear good news in terms of kids. Job seekers will get suitable jobs.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, due to overload at work, you may not give proper time to your family, and you may be late to family get-togethers. But your family and spouse will support you, which will strengthen your domestic harmony. You are expected to have a strong position on your professional front. Projects related to government agencies are likely to be initiated now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You are inclined towards spiritualism today; your spiritual power may make you happy. You may plan to visit a religious place. You may also take an interest in occult science. Your way of thinking may be positive, and you are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself; try to discuss them with those who may understand your frequency.

KIDZONE



Aditya Panday, 7 Years, VIBGYOR High School

Nidhi Arun, 7 Years, Shree Bharathi Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 1/3 • 1/27
= 1/81
= 3

QUOTE UNCODE
I haven't slept for ten days, because that would be too long. – Mitch Hedberg

BULL'S EYE
emit, IMPETUS, impute, item, mist, mite, muse, must, mute, septum, smite, stem, stump, time

FAST FIVE

U	L	T	R	A
N	A	R	E	S
C	R	O	C	S
A	G	A	T	E
P	E	T	I	T

STRIKE OUT

S	L	E	W	P	E	A	A	P	N	A	N			
T	N	A	B	A	N			A	N					
E	X	T	E	N	D	E	A	G	L	E	S			
E	R	O	R	A	L	S	A	L	W					
P	L	A	G	U	E	S	T	A	T	E				
L	E	A	R	W	O	H	S	R						
L	I	C	E	N	C	E	T							
C	I	A	S	T	I	R	A	H						
H	O	N	S	H	U	S	A	M	P	L	E			
A	G	E	N	A	C	T	L	B						
S	O	A	I	G	A									
M	O	M	S	R	I	D	E	V	I					
S	A	O	T	I	L	C								
I	N	D	I	G	O	T	I	R	A	N	A	T		
M	R	A	L	N	M									
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	U	K	E					
P	I	S	A	L	V	I	N	G	L	O	W			
H	T	S	C											

QUICK

E	V	A	D	E	D	B	Y	P	A	S	S			
U	M	E	R	I	H									
K	E	I	G	E										
B	A	N	D	I	P	U	R	K	N	O	T			
S	O	A	I	G	A									
M	O	M	S	R	I	D	E	V	I					
S	A	O	T	I	L	C								
I	N	D	I	G	O	T	I	R	A	N	A	T		
M	R	A	L	N	M									
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	U	K	E					
P	I	S	A	L	V	I	N	G	L	O	W			
H	T	S	C											
P	A	R	S	E	D	E	X	U	D	E	D			

MENSA PUZZLE
The 3 comes before 2. The numbers are given alphabetical order of their spellings. Three would precede two

RIDDLER
This triangle can not exist. The longest side is longer than the sum of the other two.

SUDOKU

1	5	6	9	7	2	3	4	8
8	9	3	5	6	4	1	2	7
4	7	2	3	8	1	9	6	5
6	4	8	1	3	9	5	7	2
5	3	9	4	2	7	6	8	1
7	2	1	8	5	6	4	9	3
9	1	5	2	4	8	7	3	6
2	6	4	7	1	3	8	5	9
3	8	7	6	9	5	2	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Ag, Age, Rage, Large, Galore, Pergola.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 3 + 1 x 3 = 21
Medium
3 x 7 + 4 + 9 = 34
Hard
8 x 8 / 8 x 9 = 72

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Everybody's fantasy — Actor Mark Wahlberg has talked about working with Halle Berry in the upcoming film 'The Union' and said that romancing the actress onscreen is every man's fantasy

Praise for Vicky's moves

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has heaped praise on actor Vicky Kaushal for his dance moves in the latest song 'Tauba Tauba' from his upcoming film 'Bad Newz'. Salman took to his Instagram Stories, where he shared the music video of the song by Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, known for hits such as 'Players', 'Gangsta', 'Mexico', and 'God Damn'.

In the video, Vicky is seen effortlessly grooving on the song dressed in an all-black outfit paired with sunglasses.

"Great moves Vicky... Song looking good. Best wishes! @vickykaushal09," Salman captioned the clip.

'Tauba Tauba', which dropped on July 2, currently has 14,627,318 views and as per YouTube, is the No. 1 trending number. On Wednesday, Vicky shared the music video with the caption, "Punjabi gaana aur main dance na karu?! Let's go! #TaubaTauba song out now." Directed by Anand Tiwari, 'Bad Newz' also starring Ammy Virk and Triptii Dimri explores the funny side of a rare pregnancy phenomenon - 'Heteropaternal Superfecundation', wherein a woman gets pregnant with twins from two different fathers. Coming back to Salman, the actor will be next seen in 'Sikandar' directed by A.R. Murugadoss. The film also stars Sathyaraj, Rashmika Mandanna, and Prateik Babbar in key roles.

Details about the film are still under wraps. **—IANS**

Steamy shot

Actress Pooja Hedge has dropped a series of stunning pictures in which she can be seen in a bathrobe.

Taking to her Instagram account, the actress dropped the pictures in which she can be seen flaunting her radiant beauty.

Pooja captioned the post, "One freshly steamed momo."

Meanwhile, Pooja Hegde, following her role in Beast, is preparing for her next Tamil film. Directed by Karthik Subbaraj, this project will reunite her with actor Suriya.

Apart from Pooja Hegde, the film reportedly stars Jayaram, Karunakaran, and Joju George in key roles, with music composed by Santhosh Narayanan. This movie marks Suriya's first collaboration with director Karthik Subbaraj.

Pooja Hegde is set for a busy year with three highly anticipated films: Deva, Sanki, and Suriya 44. She also has three other major projects in the works that have not yet been announced. Deva, directed by Rosshan Andrrews, is an action thriller featuring Shahid Kapoor and is produced by Zee Studios and Roy Kapur Films. The film is slated for a Dussehra release this October. **—ANI**

Unique bond

Tabu reveals what Ajay Devgn's first ambition was

Tabu and Ajay Devgn share a long-standing relationship, having worked together in ten films and known each other since their early teens. She recently opened up about their unique bond, and revealed Devgn's original ambition was to become a filmmaker.

Tabu told India Today that Ajay Devgn had always been passionate about cinema and initially wanted to be a director, not an actor.

She mentioned that he used to make short films and that this early connection formed the basis of their comfortable working relationship. She emphasized that knowing him before they both got into acting contributed to the ease and comfort she felt with him.

Tabu reminisced about their early days, stating that they had known each other since they were around 12 or 13 years old. She further said in the interview that Ajay was her brother's childhood friend, and they grew up together, which made their relationship different from her relationships with other male co-stars. She noted that this unique bond stemmed from knowing him outside the film industry. Tabu highlighted Devgn's personality, saying he never demanded her to be someone else and that he respected her space. She appreciated his unconditional support and indulgence, stating that he never stopped working with her. She shared that producers and filmmakers would ask Ajay to talk to her if there were any issues, but he never tried to influence her decisions. Tabu concluded by acknowledging Devgn's respect for her space and decisions. She expressed gratitude for his support and the unique relationship they shared. **—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

It's a wrap

The shooting of One and Half was completed recently. R Charan debuts as a producer in Sandalwood with this film.

Actress Manvita said the film is special to her. "After this film, a new person came into my life. The movie has come out well. Mani Anna did a superb job with the music. Likhita Siri is my co-star. All three of us had a good bond. Shreyas said that he has done a good job as a director and actor," said Manvita.

Shreyas Chinga, the lead actor and director of the movie, described it as a technicians' film. "Every technician is like family to us. Each has fulfilled their duty, and I am grateful to the entire film crew for their support in bringing this project to the screen. With fewer people coming to theaters at this time, we need your support. It's a very unique movie, and I believe there's a strong possibility of remaking it in another language," he said.

Charan, who hails from Gandhinagar, said he enjoyed watching Shreyas' film 'David'. "I couldn't have guessed that he would make a movie like this," he said.

Shreyas, known for his acting skills in movies such as Rangbirangi, David, and The Vacant House, shifts to directing with this film. One and Half is said to be a comedy.

Queens' game

All these years, leading ladies of Sandalwood used to be brand ambassadors for cricket tournaments and only got a chance to clap and cheer in the tournament. Now, they will have a chance to showcase their talent in a cricket tournament at the Queen's Premier League (QPL) tournament to be organised shortly.

The QPL logo was launched in May and its trophy and jersey were unveiled at a hotel in Bengaluru by Sandalwood actor Anirudh Jatkar. The organisers of the QPL have selected captains for 10 cricket teams that will participate in the tournament. Creative Friends is organising the QPL tournament.

Sandalwood heroines Dhanya Ramkumar, Sruthi Hariharan, Bhavana Rao, Siri Ravikumar, Karunya Ram, Sukrutha Wagle, Janavi Karthik, Brinda Acharya were present on the occasion.

The cricket teams to participate in the QPL tournament are: Belagavi Queens, Hubballi Queens, Bengaluru Queens, Mysuru Queens, Kolar Queens, Mangaluru Queens, Shivamogga Queens, Chitradurga Queens, Hassan Queens, and Bellary Queens.